CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CENTRAL REFERENCE

30 September 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Reference

SUBJECT: Task Team VI Report

1. I won't endeavor here to give a critique of this report - that would require a lengthy analysis. In lieu thereof I am simply recording my initial reactions.
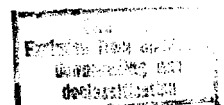
2. A lot of good thinking has gone into this report particularly in the more technical aspects. It is however marred by some strongly expressed opinions, unsupported generalizations and vague identifications. The classifications of IDH R&D, the funding chart and the categorization of intellectual levels of activity are very useful. But the attacks on NIEs, USIB and SCIPS are neither appropriate nor helpful.

3. With regard to the critical points - the recommendations:

    a. Policy mechanism

      It seems to me the Task Team is recommending that another group be set up to do what the Task Team should have done. If the Team is admitting its incapacity to come up with recommended objectives and policy, then another group may be needed. If not then the Team should be charged by CODIB with developing such recommendations. The mechanism proposed is an authoritarian oligarchy that would require USIB to divest itself of responsibility in the R&D field. This is untenable. USIB must establish the objectives and policies for the Community. Such a mechanism as proposed would then be feasible for the coordination of implementing actions within established objectives and policies. Whether such a mechanism should be an expanded CODIB, an additional

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committee or one supplanting CODIB is moot. I would favor an
expanded and renamed CODIB. But first CODIB must come up
with recommended objectives and policies. It would be senseless
for CODIB to say to the DCI and USIB - you'd better appoint another
committee because we can't come up with recommendations.

b. Warning and indications

Some sharpening up could be done here. But there seems to be
an inconsistency. The report places this area as one which the Intelligence
Community should have the competence in and handle itself for R&D
purposes, but the recommendation is for contractual assistance.
This recommendation should be spelled out - sans discussion. This
should also probably be subsumed under recommended policy and
objectives.

c. List of Info Services & Survey

Of dubious value.

d. Evaluation of 2 systems

OK. but the Team should recommend specific systems. This
should also come under policy and objectives - presumably if it's
wise to do a systems study of 2 systems - why not all. Then what
priority and what time schedule.

e. Feed-back mechanism

This recommendation rests on the assumption that IDH facilities have
not been utilized properly. Such an assumption has not been proved.
Weaknesses in finished intelligence may be entirely due to failures or
incapacities in collection. The Team needs to demonstrate some
failures or weakness in IDH. On the other hand I think this could be
converted into an attractive proposal by eliminating the assumption and
recommending that a study be made of some cases for which the NIE
estimators felt they lacked sufficient information, identify what they
lacked and then proceed to identify why that information was not available
and what would be required to make it available. Such a study could and
should be undertaken within the Community. On the basis of such a study
new R&D objectives, if any, could be formulated.

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Deputy Director of Central Reference